

From: Donn Edwards
To: Microsoft ATR
Date: 11/19/01 5:45am
Subject: The wheels of US justice are incomprehensible

Dear US DOJ

I am a programmer who has been following the various Microsoft lawsuits with interest over the years and I must say that your proposed settlement with Microsoft amounts to more of a capitulation than a settlement.

If Microsoft is guilty of a crime, then surely it should be punished? If it has inflated prices over the years, then a refund would be a good place to start.

If it has broken the law by producing operating systems that harm other products, then surely Microsoft should be forced to issue a CD to all *existing* Windows users, starting with Windows 95, containing updates to those operating systems that will enforce compliance with the law?

If MS is going to be forced to sell a cheaper version of Windows without all the other junk, then this should apply to all versions of Windows 95 onwards, and not just Windows XP onwards.

Perhaps you could do it as part of the enforcement process: the first time that MS gets cheeky and violates the compliance issue, then Windows XP and Windows 2000 should be included in the list of operating systems that need to be changed to comply with the law. Next time they get cheeky, then add Windows ME, and then Windows 98 SE, and so on. Not only will this allow existing customers to benefit from the enforcement of the law, but it will increase Microsoft's costs, by having to go back to older versions of their code and change it.

The wording of the proposed agreement sounds all well and good in theory, but it was obviously written by people who have never struggled to get Microsoft to

- a) Admit there is a problem
- b) Work on fixing it
- c) Getting a fix that makes things better, not worse

Have you guys ever actually tried to report a problem and get it fixed? I doubt it! If so, then you would provide mechanisms whereby Microsoft's own reluctance to admit that they have done anything wrong would be addressed. Until you get that mindset to change, you are going to continue to look like fools in the eyes of the general public, both at home and abroad.

Best wishes,
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